

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20550

The Idaho Criminal Gang Enforcement Act provides for criminal enhancement to convictions for crimes associated with gang-related activity. The purpose of this amendment is to add crimes to the Act and increase the enhancement penalties. Idaho Code § 18-8502(3) details crimes that gangs are known to commit, and which can be used to show a pattern of gang-related activity. Crimes to be added involve crimes in jails and prisons, additional street crimes, and sex crimes that gangs are known to commit. Amendments to Idaho Code § 18-8503 would provide for increased penalties in the enhancement to crimes associated with gang-related activity. Increasing penalties under the Act should encourage more frequent use of criminal enhancement for gang-related activity, thus enhancing community safety.

FISCAL NOTE

Based on the limited nature of the current use of the Idaho Criminal Gang Enforcement Act, the cost of increased penalties is difficult to assess. It is anticipated the costs would be nominal.

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